



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,845	10/29/2003	Stephen P. Mangin	A-72194/ENB	9143
32940	7590	06/07/2006	EXAMINER	
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP 555 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 1000 SUITE 1000 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104			PRONE, CHRISTOPHER D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3738	

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/696,845	MANGIN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher D. Prone	3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 and 23-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-7,15-17,24,25,28,29,31,32 and 34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,8-14,23,26,27,30 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/9/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Upon further review newly added claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 34 are withdraw as being directed toward nonelected species. Claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 34 are directed toward the marker shown in figure 11, which is species 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 23, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 23, the word "means" is preceded by the word(s) "having a length," in an attempt to use a "means" clause to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function. However, since no function is specified by the word(s) preceding "means," it is impossible to determine the equivalents of the element, as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. See *Ex parte Klumb*, 159 USPQ 694 (Bd. App. 1967).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 23, 27, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,653,748 Strecker.

In regards to claims 1-4, 12, and 14 Strecker discloses the same invention being a prosthetic delivery device comprising a flexible elongated member (11), a means for releasably securing the prosthesis comprising a crocheted material (14) including a thread having a plurality of loops, and a visual marker (20) attached to the prosthesis, visible by the operator.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-11, 13, 26, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,653,748 Strecker in view of United States Patent 5,480,423 Ravenscroft.

Strecker discloses the invention substantially as claimed being a prosthetic delivery device. However, Strecker does not disclose that his prosthetic is a self-expanding stent that expands to a larger radius and a shorter length or that the marker is positioned in order to show the shortened length of the stent after implantation.

Ravenscroft teaches the use of a prosthetic delivery device comprising a length shortening self-expanding stent and marker bands in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of providing a concentrated expansion force within a body lumen, wherein the operator has full knowledge of the location of the stent beginning and end in both the expanded and contracted phases shown best in figures 2a – 2f.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the stent and markings of Ravenscroft with the delivery device of Strecker in order to provide a concentrated expansion force within a body lumen, which can be accurately tracked by the operator throughout the insertion process.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/31/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that neither Strecker nor Ravenscroft disclose a visual marker element. However the applicant specifically recites in paragraph [0033] how broadly the marker can be interpreted.

"The visual marker of the present invention can be broadly defined as any characteristic or feature included in the apparatus 21, whether on the prosthesis 22, device 26 and/or elsewhere on the apparatus 21, which can be observed under direct visualization so as to facilitate placement of the stent or other prosthesis within the mammalian body."

In view of this definition the end mesh of Strecker can clearly be considered a marker and used to help position the stent. Further more Ravenscroft clearly discloses radiopaque marker bands, which are described by the applicant as markers in the current application in paragraph [0027].

“Radiopaque or other markers can be placed on device 26 and/or stent 22 to permit fluoroscopic visualization, in addition to the direct visualization through scope 62, of the markers and/or stent 22 during deployment. For example, radiopaque markers 67 can be provided on shaft 31 of the device 26.”

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Prone whose telephone number is (571) 272-6085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Fri 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christopher D Prone
Examiner
Art Unit 3738


CDP


CORRINE McDERMOTT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700